



For Release: Thursday, September 14, 2017

17-1278-SAN

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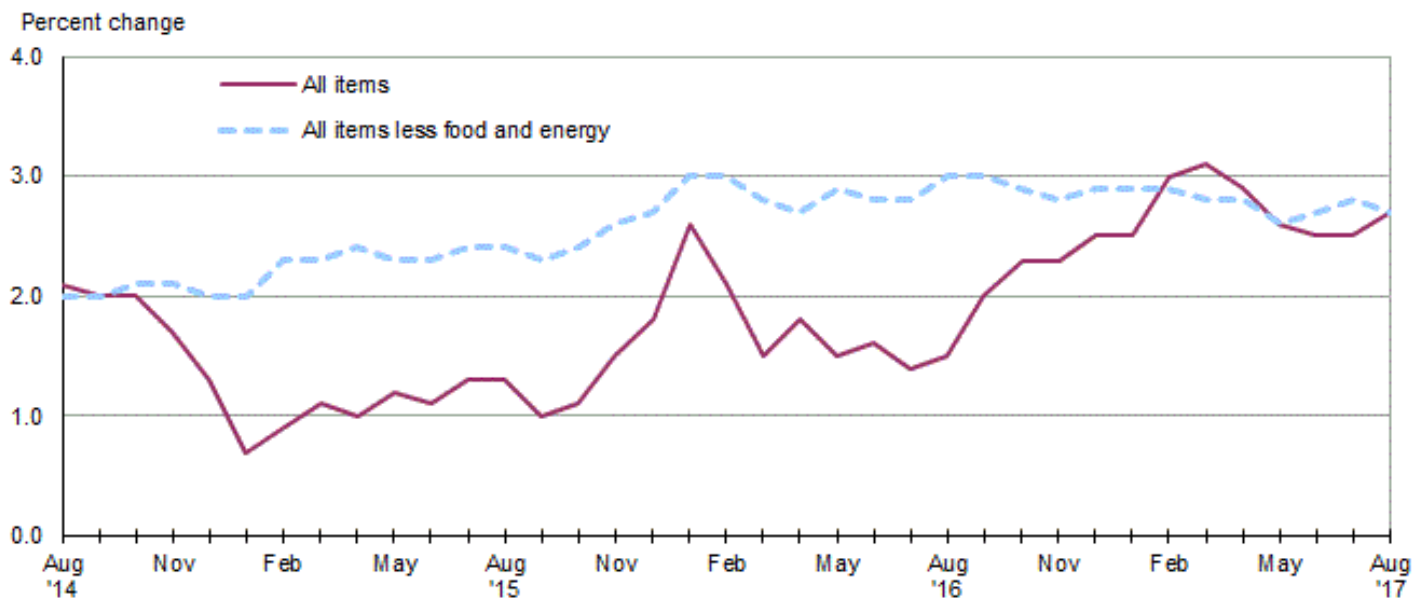
Consumer Price Index, West Region — August 2017

Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 2.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), crept up 0.2 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The August increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices rose 5.5 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, August 2014–August 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of August. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home inched down 0.2 percent, but prices for food away from home advanced 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.6 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.1 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 0.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 1.1 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (2.2 percent). Prices for natural gas service were virtually unchanged, while prices for electricity inched down 0.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices rose 5.5 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (10.7 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 1.2 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 2.6 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy crept up 0.2 percent in August. Higher prices for shelter (0.5 percent), apparel (0.5 percent), and medical care (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for other goods and services (-0.4 percent), new vehicles (-0.3 percent), and recreation (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (5.0 percent), other goods and services (4.2 percent), and medical care (1.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-1.7 percent) and education and communication (-1.5 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0
March.....	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1
April.....	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9
May.....	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6
June.....	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5
July.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5
August.....	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7
September.....	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0		
October.....	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3		
November.....	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3		
December.....	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5		

The September 2017 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on October 13, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Aug. 2016	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	254.469	254.708	255.282	2.7	0.3	0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	411.335	411.722	412.649			
Food and beverages	254.351	255.163	255.140	1.6	0.3	0.0
Food	254.220	255.101	255.086	1.6	0.3	0.0
Food at home	244.962	246.141	245.591	0.4	0.3	-0.2
Food away from home.....	266.125	266.577	267.324	3.1	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	252.768	252.643	252.515	2.0	-0.1	-0.1
Housing	275.972	277.110	278.205	4.2	0.8	0.4
Shelter	315.895	317.460	318.929	5.0	1.0	0.5
Rent of primary residence(1).....	332.809	334.220	335.741	5.3	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	331.530	333.119	334.579	5.0	0.9	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	331.535	333.123	334.590	5.0	0.9	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	296.793	296.753	296.842	1.6	0.0	0.0
Household energy	256.940	256.581	256.389	0.4	-0.2	-0.1
Energy services(1)	259.358	259.008	258.781	0.3	-0.2	-0.1
Electricity(1).....	286.873	287.553	287.100	1.2	0.1	-0.2
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	210.130	207.298	207.598	-2.6	-1.2	0.1
Household furnishings and operations.....	127.865	128.039	128.280	0.5	0.3	0.2
Apparel	117.509	116.565	117.120	-1.7	-0.3	0.5
Transportation	206.034	203.452	203.809	3.3	-1.1	0.2
Private transportation	199.747	197.903	198.976	3.8	-0.4	0.5
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.686	100.182	100.064	-0.8	-0.6	-0.1
New vehicles	147.884	146.187	145.768	-0.6	-1.4	-0.3
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	102.721	101.537	101.245	-0.6	-1.4	-0.3
New cars(4).....	145.596	143.573	142.346	-1.4	-2.2	-0.9
Used cars and trucks.....	134.856	134.446	134.351	-3.1	-0.4	-0.1
Motor fuel	224.767	217.894	222.750	10.6	-0.9	2.2
Gasoline (all types).....	223.980	217.074	221.923	10.7	-0.9	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	221.188	214.277	219.170	10.7	-0.9	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	214.940	207.764	212.069	10.8	-1.3	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	220.984	214.785	218.984	10.3	-0.9	2.0
Medical Care	476.913	479.489	480.581	1.6	0.8	0.2
Medical care commodities.....	370.456	373.433	374.209	4.7	1.0	0.2
Medical care services.....	510.299	512.688	513.883	0.8	0.7	0.2
Professional services	347.039	347.865	352.155	0.3	1.5	1.2
Recreation(3).....	112.582	112.620	112.431	0.2	-0.1	-0.2
Education and communication(3).....	135.408	135.565	135.778	-1.5	0.3	0.2
Other goods and services	425.120	427.393	425.773	4.2	0.2	-0.4
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	254.469	254.708	255.282	2.7	0.3	0.2
Commodities	180.412	179.962	180.155	1.5	-0.1	0.1
Commodities less food & beverages.....	143.647	142.725	142.993	1.4	-0.5	0.2
Nondurables less food & beverages	183.584	182.159	183.208	3.4	-0.2	0.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	230.041	228.276	229.664	5.2	-0.2	0.6
Durables	107.183	106.695	106.324	-1.2	-0.8	-0.3
Services.....	323.025	323.926	324.861	3.4	0.6	0.3
Rent of shelter(2).....	336.296	337.961	339.535	5.0	1.0	0.5
Transportation services	304.937	302.777	300.766	4.0	-1.4	-0.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Aug. 2016	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017
Other services	342.113	342.305	343.520	0.2	0.4	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	244.297	244.432	244.982	2.8	0.3	0.2
All items less food	254.679	254.819	255.484	2.9	0.3	0.3
All items less shelter.....	230.569	230.243	230.440	1.4	-0.1	0.1
Commodities less food	147.709	146.801	147.061	1.5	-0.4	0.2
Nondurables	218.986	218.589	219.150	2.4	0.1	0.3
Nondurables less food.....	188.683	187.323	188.311	3.3	-0.2	0.5
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	231.916	230.300	231.550	4.8	-0.2	0.5
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	342.377	342.371	342.567	1.4	0.1	0.1
Services less medical care services.....	309.934	310.737	311.652	3.7	0.6	0.3
Energy	241.710	237.666	240.324	5.5	-0.6	1.1
All items less energy	257.508	258.070	258.492	2.5	0.4	0.2
All items less food and energy	258.853	259.362	259.860	2.7	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.573	139.360	139.079	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2
Energy commodities.....	229.064	222.186	227.055	10.6	-0.9	2.2
Services less energy services	327.907	328.889	329.899	3.6	0.6	0.3

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.